

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

On the Locality of “Kaumuohona”

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One of the more popular sites for collecting insects on Oahu in the early 20th century was Kaumuohona. Many of the prominent entomologists of that era, including P.H. Timberlake, J.C. Bridwell, and O.H. Swezey, collected large series of a wide variety of insects labelled with this locality using various spellings (Kaumuohona, Kaumuahona, and Kaumuhonu). Several recent authors have cited this locality and the inability to properly identify where it is, since it occurs on no modern maps. Polhemus (1995) speculated that it was in the northwest Koolau range, based on the rediscovery of *Nabis kaohinani* from that region when it had previously only been known from the type collected at Kaumuhonu. In contrast, Evenhuis (2012) suggested it may be an error for Kōnāhuanui, since those were the only two localities given for *Campsicnemus inermipes*.

Investigation of this problem shows that it is in fact the ridge leading up to Kōnāhuanui, forming the east side of Nuuanu Valley, and in particular the portion on the east side of Lulumahu Stream. Part of the difficulty in resolving this undoubtedly stems from confusion about the proper spelling of the name. Historic maps indicate that it was commonly used in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but even the surveyors used different spellings. On the 1881 Government Survey map of Oahu (Covington et al. 1881b), the peak marked only with the elevation 2218' on the current USGS topo maps—above Pauoa

Flats where the ridges bounding Manoa and Nuuanu valleys meet—is named as Kaimuhonu (Fig. 1). In the Kona district (now Honolulu district) map based on it, it is called Kaumuhonu (Covington et al. 1881a). Both of these mean “the turtle oven” (Soehren 2010) and are probably variants of the original Hawaiian name (the standard reference *Place Names of Hawaii* mentions a valley and bay on Niihau called Kaumuhonu, but not the Oahu locality (Pukui et al. 1974)). The latter spelling is consistently used on several official maps through the last one with the name that is available at the state Land Survey division, the 1913 map of Honolulu and the surrounding forest reserve areas (Podmore 1913), and on a 1915 map drawn for the Trail and Mountain Club by club president and College of Hawaii professor J.S. Donaghho (1915). The latter is the last map I have found with the name.

The spellings Kaumuohona (Bridwell 1917, Fullaway 1920), Kaumuahona (Swezey 1923, Malloch 1932, Swezey 1938), and Kaumuhonu (Polhemus 1995) seem to appear only in entomological labels and descriptions, particularly those of O.H. Swezey and his contemporaries. These names would be possessives meaning “the oven of Honu/Hona,” referring to people (S.O. Gon, pers. comm.), and given the lack of consistency are likely to be the result of transmission errors among entomologists.

The correspondence of these names with the map locality is confirmed by



Figure 1. Detail of Oahu survey map (Covington et al. 1881b), showing Kaimuhonu in relation to Kōnāhuanui, Puu Ohia (Tantalus), and other landmarks.

Bridwell (1917), who clearly refers to Kaumuohona as the eastern side of Nuuanu Valley, as compared to the western Lanihuli ridge, in the following passage:

Until recently it [*Dictyophorodelphax mirabilis*] had appeared to be confined to a single ridge of the Koolau mountains, but Mr. Timberlake has extended its known range to the ridge opposite its first discovered habitat, across the broad Nuuanu Valley, the most important dividing valley of the range.

Hitherto its food-plant has remained undetermined. It had been originally taken only in small numbers sweeping over the staghorn fern (*Gleichenia*) and other vegetation along the old native trail on the crest of Kaumuohona ridge. Mr. Timberlake and I had each taken a single male on *Pittosporum* on the Lanihuli ridge at about the same elevation as its original habitat.

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